

TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
WARRANT ARTICLES

Tuesday, May 5, 2015

7:00 p.m.

Oakmont Regional High School Auditorium

9 Oakmont Drive

Ashburnham, MA 01430

The following is a list of warrant articles and the recommendations of the Board of Selectmen, the Advisory Board and the Capital Planning Committee for the May 5, 2015 Annual Town Meeting.

		Selectmen Recomm.	Capital Plan. Recomm.	Advisory Recomm.	Tax Rate Increase
	CONSENT AGENDA – Articles 1 thru 8	YES	N/A	YES	
Art. 1	Accept reports of Town Officers and Committees	YES	N/A	YES	
Art. 2	Light Department PILOT payment	YES	N/A	YES	
Art. 3	Tax Anticipation Note Authority for Treasurer	YES	N/A	YES	
Art. 4	Authority for Town Administrator to Contract with Mass. Highway	YES	N/A	YES	
Art. 5	Authority to Expend Ch. 90 Road Repair Money	YES	N/A	YES	
Art. 6	Transfer of Cushing Academy Trust Fund Income	YES	N/A	YES	
Art. 7	Transfer Title V receipts to pay principal and interest on septic loans	YES	N/A	YES	
Art. 8	Offset receipt account for Waterways Improvement Fund	YES	N/A	YES	
Art. 9	FY16 Budget	YES	N/A	YES	-\$.08
Art. 10	AWRSD Operating Budget Override	YES		YES	
Art. 11	FY16 Water Enterprise Budget	YES	N/A	YES	
Art. 12	FY16 Sewer Enterprise Budget	YES	N/A	YES	
Art. 13	Capital Planning Committee recommended expenditures	YES	YES	YES	
Art. 14	Use of Insurance funds to replace F550 Truck	YES		YES	
Art. 15	Move money into Capital Fund	YES		YES	
Art. 16	Amendments to the Regional Agreement	TBD		NO	
Total Estimated Increase for FY 16 tax rate if all passes:					-\$.08

Current Tax Rate for FY15 is \$22.28
Estimated Tax Rate for FY16 is \$22.20

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT
TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

WORCESTER, SS

TO THE CONSTABLES OF THE TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM, IN WORCESTER COUNTY,

GREETINGS:

IN THE NAME OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, YOU ARE HEREBY DIRECTED TO NOTIFY AND WARN THE INHABITANTS OF SAID TOWN QUALIFIED TO VOTE IN ELECTIONS AND TOWN AFFAIRS TO MEET AT OAKMONT REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM, 9 OAKMONT DRIVE, ASHBURNHAM, MA ON

TUESDAY, THE FIFTH OF MAY, 2015
BEGINNING AT 7:00 P.M.

THEN AND THERE TO VOTE ON THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES AND RESOLUTIONS:

ARTICLE 1: To accept the reports of several town officers and all outstanding committees, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Board of Selectmen)*

SELECTMEN
RECOMMEND YES

CAPITAL PLAN. COMM.
RECOMMEND: N/A

ADVISORY BD.
RECOMMEND: YES

TAX RATE
IMPACT: N/A

Brief Explanation: *Annual article to accept the reports of Town officials and boards.*

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to authorize a PILOT payment based on the annual kilowatt sales of the Light Department multiplied by a per kilowatt value. from the Municipal Light Plant Funds, to the town treasury, as authorized by its Light Board in accordance with Chapter 164 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Municipal Light Department)*

SELECTMEN
RECOMMEND: YES

CAPITAL PLAN. COMM.
RECOMMEND: N/A

ADVISORY BD.
RECOMMEND: YES

TAX RATE
IMPACT: N/A

Brief Explanation: *The PILOT agreement is tied to the Pilot payment in the annual kilowatt sales of the light department multiplied by a per kilowatt value. This was put in place for FY13 to ease the calculation and establish a standard process for future years. In FY16 it is estimated we will receive \$66,000.*

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the revenue of the financial year beginning July 1, 2015, in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 4, and to issue a note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 17, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Town Treasurer)*

SELECTMEN
RECOMMEND: YES

CAPITAL PLAN. COMM.
RECOMMEND: N/A

ADVISORY BD.
RECOMMEND: YES

TAX RATE
IMPACT: N/A

Brief Explanation: *Allows the Treasurer to temporarily borrow operating funds for the Town to ensure payments are done on a timely manner. The treasurer can only borrow that amount which is expected to be received.*

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Administrator to enter into a contract or contracts with the Massachusetts Highway Department for the construction and maintenance of town roads in conformance with the Massachusetts General Laws, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Town Administrator)*

SELECTMEN
RECOMMEND: YES

CAPITAL PLAN. COMM.
RECOMMEND: N/A

ADVISORY BD.
RECOMMEND: YES

TAX RATE
IMPACT: N/A

Brief Explanation: *This article allows the Town Administrator to contract with the State to do road repairs in Ashburnham.*

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate all funds which become available in the Fiscal Year 2016 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Highways, Chapter 90 Bond Issue proceeds, to be used by the DPW for the repair and maintenance of town roads in conformance with Massachusetts General Laws, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Town Administrator)*

SELECTMEN
RECOMMEND: YES

CAPITAL PLAN. COMM.
RECOMMEND: N/A

ADVISORY BD.
RECOMMEND: YES

TAX RATE
IMPACT: N/A

Brief Explanation: *This annual article allows the Town to expend its Chapter 90 state funds. For fiscal year 2016 the amount of those funds is estimated to be \$349,927.*

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the transfer of trust fund income not to exceed \$2,500 from the Cushing Academy Trust Fund to pay for the fiscal year 2016 secondary school expenses, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by Town Administrator)*

SELECTMEN
RECOMMEND: YES

CAPITAL PLAN. COMM.
RECOMMEND: N/A

ADVISORY BD.
RECOMMEND: YES

TAX RATE
IMPACT: N/A

Brief Explanation: *This is the transfer of funds (interest) from the Cushing Academy Trust fund (\$116,000). When the Town students were removed from Cushing Academy it was required to deposit \$114,000 into the Town's funds and the interest earned on these monies were to be used to offset the cost to the Town for secondary education in public schools.*

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$25,873 from special assessments Title V Receipts Account (septic system loan program) to pay principal and interest due on notes payable to the Water Pollution Abatement Trust, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Town Administrator)*

SELECTMEN
RECOMMEND: YES

CAPITAL PLAN. COMM.
RECOMMEND: N/A

ADVISORY BD.
RECOMMEND: YES

TAX RATE
IMPACT: N/A

Brief Explanation: *The Town established a Septic System Loan Program where the cost was established as betterments. Each year charges are levied on the tax bills, and the revenue required is reserved or appropriated. We then must transfer monies required to cover the loan payment.*

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money not to exceed \$3,500 from the Waterways Improvement Fund for the purpose of waterway improvement, maintenance, and safety, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Ashburnham Lakes Coalition)*

SELECTMEN
RECOMMEND: YES

CAPITAL PLAN. COMM.
RECOMMEND: N/A

ADVISORY BD.
RECOMMEND: YES

TAX RATE
IMPACT: N/A

Brief Explanation: *The Waterways Improvement Fund is funded by a portion of the boat excise tax to be used for waterways maintenance, access, law enforcement or fire prevention. The Lakes Association has been given the charge of recommending uses of these monies to the Board of Selectmen who then approve or disapprove expenditures. In the past these monies have been used for Police boat patrols, lifesaving courses, purchase of a Police boat and other water related expenditures.*

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from available funds such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2015 and to set the salaries of elected officials; or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Board of Selectmen and Advisory Board)*

SELECTMEN
RECOMMEND: YES

CAPITAL PLAN. COMM.
RECOMMEND: N/A

ADVISORY BD.
RECOMMEND: YES

TAX RATE
IMPACT: -\$.08

LINE	DEPARTMENT	FY14 SPENT	FY15 BUDGET	FY16 RECOMMEND
1	Moderator	100	100	100
2	Board of Selectmen	4,632	6,816	6,885
3	Town Administrator	184,316	191,615	182,705
4	Advisory Board	200	50,500	50,500
5	Town Accountant	70,491	72,023	69,105
6	Board of Assessors	100,439	101,893	108,500
7	Treasurer	99,403	105,252	110,340
8	Tax Collector	67,644	71,222	65,193
9	Information Technology	160,871	183,858	190,575
10	Town Clerk	47,603	57,090	53,083
11	Land Use	27,123	32,402	41,317
12	Town Hall	40,829	42,299	43,103
13	Town Buildings	143,390	146,758	155,921
14	Non-Departmental	98,390	93,853	89,168
15	Police	1,031,884	1,145,394	1,204,286
16	Juvenile Resource Officer	-	-	30,000
17	Emergency Dispatch	238,894	263,168	274,090

LINE	DEPARTMENT	FY14 SPENT	FY15 BUDGET	FY16 RECOMMEND
18	Fire	624,564	635,975	615,274
19	Inspections	64,015	63,045	89,797
20	Animal Control	30,000	30,600	30,600
21	Monty Tech	444,495	442,182	463,668
22	AWRSD	6,211,574	6,577,007	6,552,760
23	DPW	681,078	721,220	719,872
24	Snow & Ice	304,074	200,000	200,000
25	Board of Health	18,000	18,586	22,868
26	Conservation Commission	22,987	26,837	31,373
27	Council on Aging	16,529	21,529	24,639
28	Veterans' Services	104,857	107,821	77,905
29	Library	192,729	194,495	203,449
30	Agricultural Commission	-	300	300
31	Parks & Recreation Comm.	8,424	20,040	19,900
32	Historical Commission	1,800	2,000	2,000
33	Debt Service	986,185	2,031,310	2,003,241
34	Employee Ins. Benefits	1,170,775	1,342,881	1,169,756
	TOTAL	13,198,296	15,000,071	14,902,273

Setting of Elected Salaries under Article 9:

- a. Town Moderator: \$100
- b. Board of Selectmen: Chairman - \$1,300; Clerk - \$1,100; Member - \$1,100
- c. Board of Health: \$140 per member

Brief Explanation: *Annual operating budget article as noted. The revenues to offset the cost of the proposed budget come from the following sources:*

<i>Taxes</i>	<i>\$12,878,167</i>
<i>State Aid</i>	<i>\$ 916,216</i>
<i>Local Receipts</i>	<i>\$ 1,107,890</i>

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the operating budget of the Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School District, in addition to the sum voted under article 9 for said operating budget, provided that no funds shall be expended and no bonds shall be issued unless the Town has first voted at an election to exempt this expenditure from the provisions of Proposition 2 ½, so called, and further provided that the Town of Westminster also votes to approve and fund its proportional share of such additional appropriations, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by Board of Selectmen)*

SELECTMEN
RECOMMEND: YES

CAPITAL PLAN. COMM.
RECOMMEND: N/A

ADVISORY BD.
RECOMMEND: YES

TAX RATE
IMPACT: N/A

Brief explanation: *This article if passed with a subsequent ballot question will add monies to the AWRSD budget to support their assessment request.*

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money to operate the Water Department for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Town Administrator)*

SELECTMEN
RECOMMEND YES

CAPITAL PLAN. COMM.
RECOMMEND: N/A

ADVISORY BD.
RECOMMEND: YES

TAX RATE
IMPACT: N/A

Brief Explanation: *This year's budget has been decreased by \$19,320 or 2.63%. Indirect Costs which have historically been charged to the Water Department are now directly billed.*

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money to operate the Sewer Department for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Town Administrator)*

SELECTMEN
RECOMMEND YES

CAPITAL PLAN. COMM.
RECOMMEND: N/A

ADVISORY BD.
RECOMMEND: YES

TAX RATE
IMPACT: N/A

Brief Explanation: *This year's budget has been decreased by \$15,872 or 1.86%. Indirect Costs which have historically been charged to the Sewer Department are now directly billed.*

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from available funds the sum of \$451,990 to fund the recommendation of the Capital Planning Committee to include the following:

Line	Item	Amount
1	Ambulance	\$170,000
2	Fire employee turnout gear	\$12,990
3	Repairs to Ford Dump Truck Sander	\$35,000
4	Road repair	\$125,000
5	Ford F550 Truck	\$67,000
6	Ford Interceptor Cruiser #4	\$42,000
	TOTAL	\$451,990

And to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell, trade in, or dispose of any equipment being replaced, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Town Administrator)*

SELECTMEN
RECOMMEND: YES

CAPITAL PLAN. COMM.
RECOMMEND YES

ADVISORY BD.
RECOMMEND YES

TAX RATE
IMPACT: N/A

Brief Explanation: *The Capital Planning Committee has developed a sustainable capital plan that can be funded within the raise and appropriated tax levy. This year's plan includes spending \$451,990. Revenue to offset cost for this article will come from Local Receipts.*

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$49,750 from insurance proceeds to purchase an F550 Ford truck and accessories for the DPW, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Town Administrator)*

SELECTMEN
RECOMMEND YES

CAPITAL PLAN. COMM.
RECOMMEND N/A

ADVISORY BD.
RECOMMEND YES

TAX RATE
IMPACT: N/A

Brief Explanation: *In January of 2015 our 2011 F550 Ford truck was in a single vehicle accident and the truck and snow plow was totaled. A claim was submitted and \$49,750 in revenues was received to replace the vehicle. Mass General Laws require any insurance reimbursement greater than \$20,000 must be appropriated at town meeting. We will be purchasing a later model F550 and plow assembly to replace the lost truck.*

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer a sum of money to the Capital Fund, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Town Administrator)*

SELECTMEN
RECOMMEND: YES

CAPITAL PLAN. COMM.
RECOMMEND YES

ADVISORY BD.
RECOMMEND: YES

TAX RATE
IMPACT: N/A

Brief Explanation: *This article will be used should there be monies not appropriated from other capital articles.*

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to amend the AWRSD Regional Agreement, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Town Administrator)*

SELECTMEN
RECOMMEND TBD

CAPITAL PLAN. COMM.
RECOMMEND N/A

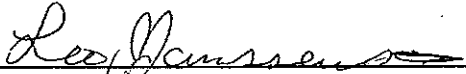
ADVISORY BD.
RECOMMEND NO

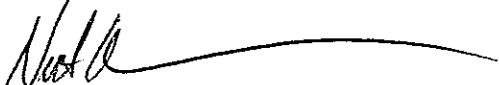
TAX RATE
IMPACT: N/A

Brief Explanation: *Pass over this article.*

And you are hereby directed to serve this warrant in accordance with the provisions of Section 3, Chapter II of the Town By-Laws by posting attested copies thereof as therein provided.

Hereof fail not and make due return of this Warrant with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk on or before the said day and hour of meeting.


Leo Janssens II, Chairman


Nicholas Davis, Clerk


Duncan Phyle, Member
ASHBURNHAM BOARD OF SELECTMEN

A true copy, Attest:

Constable

Date